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Site Use Fees in Effect May 15 at Four BLM Recreation Areas in the Yakima River Canyon

Recreation site use fees will go into effect May 15 at four Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreation areas in the Yakima River Canyon, in Kittitas County, Washington. The daily site use fee of \$5 per vehicle applies to the BLM's Umtanum, Roza, Big Pines, and Lmuma Creek recreation sites. Paying a use fee at one of these BLM recreation sites allows a visitor entrance into all four Yakima River Canyon sites.

Site use fees are charged from May 15 through September 15 each year for parking, boat launching, raft put-in and take-out, hiking, picnicking, and other day-use activities. The fee also includes camping at designated sites on a first-come, first-serve basis. The rest of the year, there is no charge for using BLM facilities in the Yakima River Canyon.

Use fees can be paid daily (\$5 per vehicle, per day) through fee envelopes at the self-pay station at each site, or with a \$25 per vehicle seasonal use permit for frequent Yakima River Canyon visitors. The seasonal use permits can be purchased at the BLM Wenatchee office, 915 N. Walla Walla Avenue in Wenatchee; the Chambers of Commerce in Ellensburg and Yakima; Red's Fly Shop in Ellensburg; and Cascade Licensing in Union Gap.

Money collected from sales of the daily and seasonal use permits helps to fund garbage collection, facility cleaning, additional law enforcement, seasonal workers, future site improvements, and administrative costs at the four BLM sites.

For further information about site use fees in the Yakima River Canyon, contact the BLM Wenatchee Office, 915 N. Walla Walla Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington, 98801 or call (509) 665-2100.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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